

January 29, 2001

Ventura Hershey
108 Centerton Rd.

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FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1 AND
RE: Docket No. 99N-4282

Dear Commissioner Henney,

I was shocked today to read that almost all the vitamin C sold in this country is now derived from Genetically Engineered corn. The FDA must take immediate action to protect the right of the consumer to know what they are purchasing and to be able to make an informed choice. Genetically Engineered Foods in the market place must be labeled!

On March 21, 2000, the Center for Food Safety spearheaded an unprecedented coalition of scientific, consumer, environmental and farm organizations in the filing of a legal petition with the FDA demanding the development of a thorough pre-market and environmental testing regime for genetically engineered foods and mandatory labeling of such foods. The effort has created an official rulemaking docket (#00P-1211/CP1) that allows the public to write in and support the action.

Additionally, on October 25, 1999 the FDA posted a notice in the Federal Register calling for the public to submit comments on bioengineered foods (Docket No. 99N-4282). As a concerned citizen, I am writing to ask that you require the labeling and pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods.

In 1992, the FDA received thousands of comments from the public demanding mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods, yet the agency refused to act. More recently, a Time Magazine poll showed that 81% of American consumers believe genetically engineered foods should be labeled. We have an absolute right to know what is in the food that we are purchasing, as well as how it was produced.

I am deeply concerned that the government does not require mandatory pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods. Without such requirements, we will have no way to know if new toxins or allergens are being introduced, or if levels of existing toxins in these new, novel foods are increased. Additionally, the effect of using of antibiotic resistant genes in the genetic engineering process remains unclear, and may pose a health risk by transferring such resistance to consumers.

Further, it is my understanding that the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act mandates that genetically engineered foods be subject to premarket safety testing and labeling. I support the Center for Food Safety and other organizations that have filed suit against the FDA to require the fulfillment of these legal obligations.

Please take action to ensure that I have the ability to make an educated choice about the foods that I eat.

Sincerely,

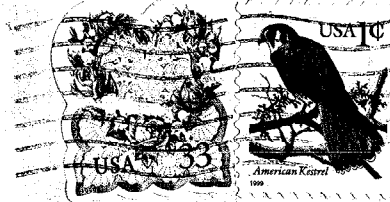
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